

In the Claims:

Claims 1-41 are canceled.

Cancel claims 42-61.

1 62. [Currently Amended] A system monitoring apparatus comprising: 112
2 a controller configured to access usage information indicative of
3 ~~consumption of a consumable~~ usage of an expendable which is used over a
4 period of time by a system to perform hard imaging wherein a plurality of hard
5 images are formed upon media, to access usage profile data indicative of
6 ~~expected consumption of the consumable~~ usage of the expendable over the
7 period of time, to compare the usage information with the usage profile data,
8 and to generate an alert responsive to the usage information deviating from the
9 usage profile data.

1 63. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the
2 ~~consumable~~ expendable comprises a consumable comprising the media.

1 64. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the
2 media comprises a plurality of sheets of paper.

1 65. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2 information indicates ~~consumption of a number of~~ usage of the expendable
3 comprising one or more consumable items ~~of the consumable~~ over the period of
4 time.

1 66. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2 information indicates wear of the ~~consumable~~ expendable comprising a
3 component having a fixed useful life.

1 67. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the
2 controller is further configured to identify the hard imaging comprising a
3 predetermined type of hard imaging and to adjust the indication of wear
4 responsive to the identification.

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1 68. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage
2 profile data comprises data derived from prior ~~consumption~~ usage of the
3 ~~consumable~~ expendable by the system.

1 69. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the
2 controller is configured to disable at least a portion of the system responsive to
3 the usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1 70. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the
2 controller is configured to disable an entirety of the system responsive to the
3 usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1 71. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the
2 controller is configured to automatically generate a purchase order without user
3 interaction responsive to the usage information deviating from the usage profile
4 data.

1 72. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the
2 controller is configured to access a monetary budget plan with respect to the
3 ~~consumption~~ usage of the ~~consumable~~ expendable over the period of time, to
4 determine monetary cost associated with the ~~consumption~~ usage of the
5 ~~consumable~~ expendable over the period of time, and to generate an alert
6 responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary budget plan.

1 73. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is further
2 configured to identify a type of the hard imaging performed by the system and
3 to adjust the usage information responsive to the identification.

1 74. [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the controller is further
2 configured to identify the type of hard imaging comprising hard imaging of a job
3 comprising a plurality of successive prints of the same page.

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1 ~~75.~~ [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the controller is further
2 configured to identify the type of hard imaging comprising a predetermined type
3 of hard imaging and the adjusting comprises adjusting to indicate one of
4 increased and decreased usage.

1 ~~76.~~ [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the expendable
2 comprises a component, and wherein the controller is configured to identify the
3 type of hard imaging and to adjust the usage information comprising wear of the
4 component responsive to the identification.

1 ~~77.~~ [New] The apparatus of claim 69 wherein the controller is
2 configured to disable at least the portion of the system to prevent operations
3 wherein the expendable is used.

1 ~~78.~~ [New] The apparatus of claim 69 wherein the controller is
2 configured to automatically disable at least the portion of the system responsive
3 to the usage information deviating from the usage profile data and without user
4 input.

1 ~~79.~~ [New] A system monitoring method comprising:
2 accessing usage information indicative of usage of an expendable which
3 is used over a period of time by a system to perform hard imaging wherein a
4 plurality of hard images are formed upon media;
5 accessing usage profile data indicative of expected usage of the
6 expendable over the period of time;
7 comparing the usage information with the usage profile data; and
8 generating an alert responsive to the usage information deviating from the
9 usage profile data.

1 ~~80.~~ [New] The method of claim 79 wherein the expendable comprises
2 a consumable comprising the media.

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1 ~~81.~~ [New] The method of claim 80 wherein the media comprises a
2 plurality of sheets of paper.

1 ~~82.~~ [New] The method of claim 79 wherein the usage information
2 indicates wear of the expendable comprising a component having a fixed useful
3 life

1 ~~83.~~ [New] The method of claim 82 further comprising identifying the
2 hard imaging comprising a predetermined type of hard imaging and adjusting the
3 indication of wear responsive to the identifying.

1 ~~84.~~ [New] The method of claim 79 further comprising disabling at
2 least a portion of the system responsive to the usage information deviating from
3 the usage profile data.

1 ~~85.~~ [New] The method of claim 84 wherein the disabling comprises
2 automatically disabling using a controller without user input.

1 ~~86.~~ [New] The method of claim 79 further comprising identifying a
2 type of the hard imaging performed by the system and adjusting the usage
3 information responsive to the identifying.

1 ~~87.~~ [New] The method of claim 86 wherein the identifying the type of
2 hard imaging comprises identifying a predetermined type of hard imaging.

1 ~~88.~~ [New] The method of claim 86 wherein the expendable comprises
2 a component, and wherein the adjusting comprises adjusting the usage
3 information comprising wear of the component.

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